

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 OMB-01 EB-11 AID-20 COME-00

TRSE-00 AGR-20 DRC-01 /192 W
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R 181600Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3274

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 24533

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, MO

SUBJECT: FRANCO-MOROCCAN RELATIONS: MONETARY TRANSFER AGREEMENT

REF: PARIS 23274

1. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR NORTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS DE WARREN TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 17 THAT TREASURY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DE LA ROSIERE HAD RETURNED FROM RECENT VISIT TO RABAT WITH ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT OF MONETARY TRANSFER ISSUES ARISING FROM LAND NATIONALIZATION. ACCORDING TO DE WARREN MOROCCANS HAVE AGREED TO PERMIT FORM FRENCH OWNERS OF NATIONALIZED LANDS TO TRANSFER PROCEEDS FROM THIS YEAR'S CROP AND FROM SALE OF LIVESTOCK AND FARM MACHINERY. TRANSFERS WILL BE HANDLED THROUGH FRENCH EMBASSY AND NOT MOROCCAN BANKING SYSTEM. IN RETURN FOR MOROCCAN AGREEMENT TO THIS RESOURCE TRANSFER, WHICH DE WARREN SAID WOULD AMOUNT TO AN ESTIMATED 130 MILLION DHIRAMS, FRENCH HAVE AGREED TO INCREASE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO MOROCCO.

2. PRINCIPAL ISSUE WHICH NOW REMAINS FOR FUTURE NEGOTIATION

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IS COMPENSATION FOR PROPERTIES THEMSELVES. THIS ISSUE DE WARREN ADMITTED WAS A MUCH MORE DIFFICULT ONE, INVOLVING

COMPLEX QUESTIONS OF PHASING OF PAYMENTS AND DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF LANDOWNERS. NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT EXPECTED TO BEGIN EITHER LATE THIS YEAR OR EARLY NEXT YEAR.

3. COMMENT: DE WARREN SEEMED GENERALLY PLEASED WITH OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS AND ATTRIBUTED THEIR SUCCESS TO FIRM POSITION TAKEN WITH FONMIN BENHIMA BY FONMIN JOBERT (REFTEL). FRENCH DO NOT EXPECT FULL COMPENSATION FOR NATIONALIZED LANDS AND ARE PREPARED FOR SETTLEMENT WHICH DISCRIMINATES AGAINST LARGEST LANDOWNERS. HOWEVER, POSITIVE PRECEDENT HAS BEEN SET BY RESOLUTION OF TRANSFER PROBLEM AND FRANCO-MOROCCAN RELATIONS SEEM TO HAVE TAKEN UPWARD TURN.
IRWIN

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